Distr.
GENERAL

IDB.24/18
27 April 2001

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Industrial Development Board

Twenty-fourth session
Vienna, 19-22 June 2001
Item 11 of the provisional agenda

ACTIVITIES OF THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT

Follow-up to JIU recommendations

Report by the Secretariat

Reports on the development of a system of follow-up to JIU recommendations, as requested by the Board in decision IDB.22/Dec.7

Introduction

1. The present report updates the information provided by the Secretariat and the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) to the twenty-third session in documents IDB.23/16, IDB.23/12 and IDB.23/12/Add.1, which provide detailed background information to the development of a pilot scheme for follow-up to recommendations of JIU. The pilot scheme outlined below has been prepared in consultation with JIU. It is understood that this initial approach is subject to review and adjustment, as warranted by experience in its actual application, and in consultation with JIU. The scheme is fully in line with the provisions of the Rules and Procedure of the Industrial Development Board.

I. PILOT SCHEME

2. The provisions of the JIU statute (in particular, chapter IV) and the follow-up system contained in annex I of the JIU annual report of 1997 (A/52/34) constitute the basic framework for the handling of JIU reports.

3. Upon receipt of the draft of a JIU report for comments, the Director-General will include in his comments an indication whether the report is, in his opinion, relevant to UNIDO, and, if not, provide reasons.

4. Basic criteria to determine the relevance of reports to UNIDO will be whether the report in question and the recommendations therein satisfy any one of the following factors: (a) fits within the mandate and purposes of the Organization; (b) has a bearing on the efficiency of the services and proper use of funds; (c) is aimed at improving management and methods, and at achieving greater coordination between organizations; (d) is aimed at assisting the Industrial Development Board in carrying out the responsibility for external evaluation of programmes and activities; (e) is aimed at advising the organization on the methods for internal evaluation, or periodically assessing these methods, or making *ad hoc* evaluations of programmes and activities.

5. JIU will give full consideration to the comments called for in paragraph 3 above in deciding whether or not to submit the final version of the report to the

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V.01-83125 (E)

Distr.: 3 May 2001

Director-General, in accordance with article 11, paragraph 4 (a) of the JIU statute,[1] for consideration by the Industrial Development Board.

6. JIU reports of relevance thus received will be circulated by the UNIDO Secretariat to the Permanent Missions accredited to UNIDO, with or without the comments of the Director-General.

7. In accordance with the provisions of rule 10 of the Rules of Procedure of the Industrial Development Board, the Director-General shall draw up the provisional agenda for each session. The Director-General will propose how JIU reports are to be worked into the provisional agenda for one session per year. In doing so, the Director-General will pay due regard to the provision of United Nations General Assembly resolution 50/233, paragraph 4, that "... the thematic reports of the Unit [be] listed under the appropriate substantive agenda ...".

8. In years when there are two regular Board sessions, only one will consider JIU reports except in cases where a report is sufficiently compelling to warrant the consideration of JIU reports by both sessions. In such cases, the rules provide the flexibility for the proposed inclusion of an appropriate item in the provisional agenda.

9. The format of documents submitted to the Board by the UNIDO Secretariat concerning JIU reports will be modified, without necessarily increasing their length, so as to be more action-oriented. They will contain any comments that the Director-General may wish to submit on the recommendations contained in the reports as well as (a) an indication of which of those addressed to him are acceptable to him, and (b) inviting the Board to take specific decisions (endorse, modify or reject) with regard to those recommendations requiring legislative action. It is understood that consideration by the Board will focus mainly on the recommendations addressed to it for action. This will not, however, preclude the review by the Board of recommendations addressed to the Director-General and any comments thereon, should it so wish.

10. In the context of paragraph 9 above, and in the interest of efficient use of in-session time, Member States may wish to bear in mind that any proposed draft decisions could be reviewed prior to sessions in informal consultations.

11. On the basis of the status of the Unit as a subsidiary body of the legislative organs of UNIDO, the Unit will be entitled, when it deems necessary, to introduce its reports to the Industrial Development Board, subject to the permission of the President of the Board in accordance with rule 34 of the Rules of Procedure of the Board.

12. The Director-General will regularly submit to the Industrial Development Board status reports concerning the measures taken on the implementation of approved recommendations (including recommendations addressed to and accepted by the Director-General) of the Unit. This would normally be done by way of a matrix providing an overview of current status, as contained in annex I of the JIU annual report of 1997 (A/52/34).

13. The follow-up of JIU recommendations will also be supported by the new UNIDO oversight recommendations tracking system. Following a survey to identify a state-of-the-art system for following up recommendations emanating from the External Auditor, the UNIDO Office of Internal Oversight and Evaluation as well as the JIU, a software recommended by the Institute of Internal Auditors will be acquired and installed in the current year.

II. ACTION REQUIRED OF THE BOARD

14. The Board is invited to endorse the pilot scheme of follow-up to JIU recommendations outlined in the present document.

[1] As an illustrative example, in the year 2000, seven JIU reports were issued in total, of which five were directly relevant to UNIDO. These five reports listed a total of 48 recommendations, i.e. an average of almost 10 recommendations per report. Of the 48 recommendations, 13 were earmarked for Member States whereas the remaining 35 recommendations were addressed to the executive heads and the secretariats.